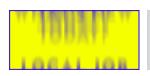
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## Corzine opposing Phila. runway project

Sunday, February 13, 2005

From staff reports gcnews@sjnewsco.com

U.S. Sen. Jon Corzine has added his name to those objecting to a proposed extension of a runway at Philadelphia International Airport.

In a letter sent Thursday to the Federal Aviation Administration's environmental protection specialist Susan McDonald, Corzine, D-N.J., said the proposed extension would address airport growth "at the expense of South Jersey residents."

Residents of West Deptford Township and surrounding municipalities have indicated their objections to what they believe would be additional aircraft traffic over their homes. Acting Gov. Richard Codey has asked Federal Aviation Administration officials and U.S. Secretary of Transportation Norman Y. Mineta to guarantee that any runway expansion at the airport would not increase noise or pollution over the region.

Corzine suggested the FAA "work with all stakeholders, including those on the eastern side of the Delaware River, in order to reach a more equitable decision."

Air travelers might have noted an issue at the Philadelphia International Airport -- longer waits in the air and on the runway. Flight delays at the airport are, on average, 10 minutes per operation. According to the FAA, an airport is considered congested when average delays exceed five minutes per operation.

Because of those delays, the airport was one of 12 other projects chosen nationwide in 2002 for expedited environmental reviews under an order by President Bush.

At a public meeting at Paulsboro High School in September, Charles Isdell, director of aviation for the Philadelphia International Airport, said delays are not only irritating to travelers but costly to businesses.

"Delays cost the airlines a lot of money in fuel and staff costs," he said.

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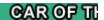
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The FAA is considering lengthening the runway 17-35 by 640 feet to the north and 400 feet to the south -- from an existing length of 5,460 feet to 6,500 feet. An alternate plan calls for the runway to be 7,000 feet in length -- by adding 1,140 feet to the north and 400 feet to the south.

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